

while a limpid stream assured an abundant supply of water, even during the very hottest season.

There would thus be nothing to fear on the score of food for several months. Whether or not the two four-pounder carronades would be sufficient to repulse the flotilla if it made an attack in full force upon Shark's Island, nobody could say, The natives, of course, could have no knowledge of the power of these arms, whose reports would spread panic among them, not to mention the bullets and balls which the two guns and the car-bines would rain upon them. But if even half of them succeeded in landing on the island there would be little hope*

There was not a moment to lose. Jack and Ernest brought round the boat to the mouth of Jackal River. Boxes of preserves, cassava, rice and flour, and also arms and ammunition were taken down to it. Then M. and Mme. Zermatt, Mr. and Mrs. Wolston, Ernest and Hannah got into it, while Jack took his seat in his canoe which would enable Mm, if need arose, to establish communication between the island and the shore. The animals,

except the two dogs, had to be left at
Rock Castle.
The jackal, ostrich, and the onager
were set at
liberty. They would* be able to find
their ow\$
food.

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The boat left the mouth of the river
just as the
pirogues came into sight off Whale
Island* But,